

* * *From the Editor* * *

With this issue of *Sino-Japanese Studies*, we enter our eighth year of publication and a new era of technology. No expense was spared as the journal has now been upgraded to be able to integrate Chinese and Japanese into text. We are using Microsoft Word 6.0 with Chinese and Japanese TwinBridge but can accommodate other programs. We think the result is a much more handsome product. As noted some years ago, this development, while more pleasing to the eye, relieves the editorial process little and insures the quality of the product not at all. We are still seeking the highest quality of scholarly articles, notes, and reviews available and encourage more submissions from all disciplines and time periods.

This issue of *SJS* covers a wide range of material divided between the early modern and modern eras. We begin with an essay by Wai-ming Ng, a graduate student from Princeton University and before that from the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Tsukuba University, on Huang Tsun-hsien (Huang Zunxian 黃尊憲). Ng closely examines Huang's Japanese and Chinese contacts through his years in Japan with the first Chinese foreign legation there. He also looks at the books Huang read and collected in Japan in an effort to get a handle of the formative process of Huang's own political thinking.

John Allen Tucker next offers an annotated translation of an important text by the seventeenth-century Neo-Confucian thinker Yamaga Sokô 山鹿素行, the *Seikyô yôroku* 聖教要録. Tucker shows how Sokô's teachings were used and misused by contemporary and subsequent thinkers and the *bakufu*, by both opponents and those who admired his thought.

This is followed by the first installment of what will be an on-going translation of Ôba Osamu's 大庭脩 major work, *Edo jidai no Nit-Chû hiwa* 江戸時代の日中秘話, translated here as *Sino-Japanese Relations in the Edo Period*. This first segment covers historiographical issues, personal reminiscences, the process through which Professor Ôba came to concentrate on the themes covered in this book, and related themes.

Professor Chiba Sen'ichi's 千葉宣一 short essay on contemporary translations and studies of Kawabata Yasunari 川端康成 in the People's Republic of China follows. After spending a period of time in Beijing, teaching about modern Japanese literature and collecting works related to Kawabata, Chiba came to a number of conclusions about why Japan's (and East Asia's) first Nobel laureate for fiction (and the only one at the time the original article was written) had become so popular among the Chinese. In the process of checking his references for the translation, I discovered that Kawabata was even more popular (judging by the number of translations) in Taiwan. I thus put together the bibliography that follows Professor Chiba's essay.